

Method and apparatus for the reduction of memory space required for a digital halftone system

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In the image generation method and apparatus of the present invention, an image generation apparatus is provided in which a digital halftone cell of threshold values is generated and broken down into a plurality of tiles determined from the locations of the four corners of the halftone cell. The tiles when put together form a bounding box around the halftone cell. These tiles are arranged into a threshold array of threshold values wherein the width of the array is equal to the number of threshold values in a sequence of threshold values across a row of contiguous tiles and the height of the array is equal to the greatest common denominator of the x axis increment and y axis increment between vertices of the halftone cell. The threshold array is stored in memory for subsequent reference during the halftoning process. Through the method and apparatus of the present invention the amount of memory required to store threshold values is reduced substantially while the speed and ease of accessing the threshold values during the halftone process is maintained.

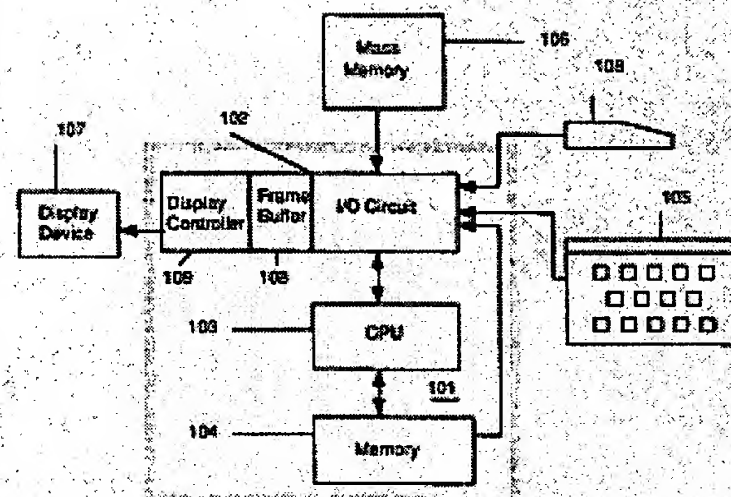


Figure 4

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